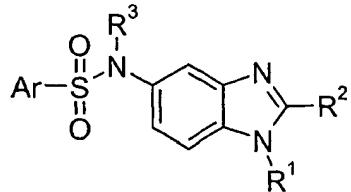


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

5 wherein

R¹ is selected from C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl, and C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl,

10 C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl, and C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl used in defining R¹ is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and amino;

R² is selected from C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, and C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₂₋₁₀alkenyl,

15 C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₀cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, and C₄₋₈cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl used in defining R² is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, and amino;

R³ is selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl; and

20 Ar is selected from C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₃₋₆heteroaryl, wherein said C₆₋₁₀aryl and C₃₋₆heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkylaminocarbonyl and halogen.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

25 R¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₄₋₆cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl and C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, C₄₋₆cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl and C₃₋₆heterocycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl used in defining R¹ is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, hydroxy and amino;

R^2 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl-
 C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-6} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl used in defining

R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy and hydroxy;

R^3 is selected from -H and C_{1-3} alkyl; and

Ar is selected from phenyl and C_{3-6} heteroaryl, wherein said phenyl and C_{3-6} heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo.

10

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1,

R^1 is selected from cyclopentyl-methyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclobutyl-methyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 4,4-difluorocyclohexanemethyl, tetrahydropyranyl-methyl, tetrahydrofuranyl-methyl, morpholinyl-methyl, piperdinylethyl, N-methyl-
15 piperdinyl-methyl and piperdinyl-methyl;

R^2 is selected from t-butyl, n-butyl, 2-methyl-2-butyl, isopentyl, 2-hydroxy-propyl, 2-methoxy-2-propyl, 1-methyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-3-buten-1-yl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, ethyl, and 2-propyl;

20

R^3 is selected from -H and methyl; and

Ar is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, and pyrazolyl, wherein said phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, and pyrazolyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy, fluoro and chloro.

25

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R^1 is cyclohexyl-methyl, tetrahydropyranyl-methyl and 4,4-difluorocyclohexanemethyl;

R^2 is t-butyl and 1,1-difluoroethyl;

30 R^3 is selected from -H and methyl; and

Ar is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, and pyrazolyl, wherein said phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, thienyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, and pyrazolyl are optionally substituted with one or more methyl groups.

5. A compound selected from:

5 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]thiophene-2-sulfonamide;

5 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;

10 *N*-(1-Benzyl-2-*tert*-butyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl)-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

10 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,3,5-trimethylisoxazole-4-sulfonamide;

15 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1,2-trimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-sulfonamide;

15 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1,3,5-tetramethyl-1*H*-pyrazole-4-sulfonamide;

20 *N*-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzene sulphonamide;

20 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

25 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-isopropyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzene sulphonamide;

25 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-methylcyclopropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

30 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

30 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethyl-3-butenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

35 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

35 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-ethyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-benzene sulphonamide;

40 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-isopropyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-benzene sulphonamide;

40 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-methylcyclopropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1-[(tetrahydro-2-furanyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

5 *N*-[1-(cyclobutylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[1-(cyclopropylmethyl)-2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-10 methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-2-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

15 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-methoxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-methoxy-1-methylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]—benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1-dimethyl-1*H*-20 imidazole-4-sulfonamide;

N-(5-{[[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl](methyl)amino]sulfonyl}-4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)acetamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylpyridine-3-sulfonamide;

25 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1,2-trimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-5-sulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*,1,2-trimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-5-sulfonamide;

Ethyl 4-{[[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl](methyl)amino]sulfonyl}-3,5-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylate;

30 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-4-(hydroxymethyl)-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methyl-4-(1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-ylmethyl)benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-4-{{[(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]methyl}-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide};

5 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(cyclopentylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(2-cyclohexylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

10 *N*-[1-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-2-*tert*-butyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-{2-*tert*-Butyl-1-[(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl}-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

15 *N*-[2-*tert*-Butyl-1-(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-*N*-[1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

20 *N*-[2-(1,1-difluoroethyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-*N*-[1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

25 *N*-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-ethylpropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-(1-ethylpropyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

30 *N*-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-ethylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-*N*-[2-(1-methyl-1-pyridin-2-ylethyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(1-cyano-1-methylethyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-*N*-[2-propyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-*tert*-butyl-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]-*N*-ethylbenzenesulfonamide;

5 *N*-ethyl-*N*-[2-(1-methoxy-1-methylethyl)-1-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.

10

7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain.

8. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture
15 of a medicament for the treatment of anxiety disorders.

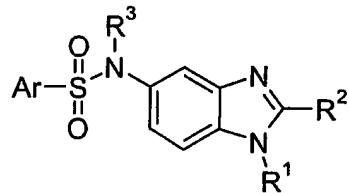
9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, cancer, Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's disease, gastrointestinal disorders and
20 cardiovascular disorders.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25

11. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

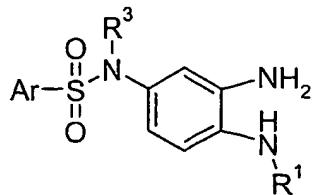
12 A method of preparing a compound of Formula I,



I

comprising:

reacting a compound of Formula II,



5

II

with a compound of R^2COX , in the presence of a base, such as an alkylamine, and optionally a coupling reagent, such as HATU, EDC;

wherein

X is selected from Cl, Br, F and OH;

10 R^1 is selected from C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, and C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl, and C_{3-6} heterocycloalkyl used in defining R^1 is 15 optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy and amino;

15 R^2 is selected from C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{4-8} cycloalkenyl- C_{1-4} alkyl used in 20 defining R^2 is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, and amino;

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl; and

25 Ar is selected from C_{6-10} aryl and C_{3-6} heteroaryl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl and C_{3-6} heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl and halogen.